

Remarks

The office action mailed October 12, 2006 has been reviewed and these remarks are responsive thereto. The office action rejected claims 1-4, 6-8, 10-14, 16-18 and 20-27, but indicated that claims 5, 9, 15 and 19 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form so as to include all limitations of their respective base and intervening claims. Applicants acknowledge with thanks the indication of allowable subject matter.

Applicants amend claim 1 to include the features of original claims 2, 4 and 5, thereby effectively rewriting claim 5 in independent form.

Applicants amend claim 9 to include the features of original claims 1, 2, 7 and 8, thereby rewriting claim 9 in independent form.

Applicants amend claim 11 to include the features of original claims 12, 14 and 15, thereby effectively rewriting claim 15 in independent form.

Applicants amend claim 19 to include the features of original claims 11, 12, 17 and 18, thereby rewriting claim 19 in independent form.

Claims 3, 6 and 7 are amended to depend from allowable claim 1.

Claims 13, 16 and 17 are amended to depend from allowable claim 11.

The claims are also amended to correct several minor informalities.

Claims 2, 4, 5, 12, 14, 15 and 21-27 are canceled.

The above amendments and cancellations are made without prejudice or disclaimer of Applicants' ability to pursue one or more of the original claims in one or more continuation applications.

The specification is amended to provide U.S. Patent or U.S. Patent Publication numbers for applications previously identified by application serial number.

It is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the below-listed number.

Respectfully submitted,

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